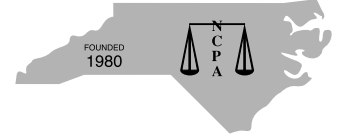




Summer 2012

North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.

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*noun* [C]; *för-əm*  
an occasion or a place for talking about a matter of public interest

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- “6 Simple Ways to Stay at the Top of Your Game”
- “2012 Student Scholarship Essay Winners”



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# President's Message

Stephanie B. Elliott, NCCP



For everything you have missed,  
you have gained something else,  
and for everything you gain,  
you lose something else.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Change is a necessary part of any great organization. The needs, desires and mission of the members constantly evolve. The key to surviving change is learning to bend to it and using the whole experience, the good and the bad as the catalyst for improving the organization. NCPA is experiencing change. At our Annual Meeting and Seminar we elected new members to open positions. Since that time, the Board and Executive Committee has experienced some "shifting". Stephanie Ivans, our Chairman of the Board, resigned her position due to personal circumstances. We will miss her and send our heartfelt concern and love. Patti Clapper, our immediate past President, has graciously agreed to fill the term. Change has been the subject of discussions of several Board and Executive Committee meetings. We've discussed what we believe NCPA is doing right, and what we feel we could "change" to help us grow. One these major changes involves suspending our "MidYear" seminar. Over the last several years, attendance has been down and as a result, NCPA has lost a significant amount of money running the seminar. The Review Course on the other hand, has been a steady revenue maker for us. The Board and EC has decided that we should focus our education goals by streamlining what we provide to the membership. To that end, we are working toward the following goals:

- Grow the Review Course to include offerings in multiple major NC cities. Currently, we are planning to offer the Review Course September 14-15, 2012 in Charlotte and Raleigh. We have worked to obtain venues at no cost to us, to help reduce the tremendous cost of running such an educational event, and we are working to provide local speakers to help cut costs as well.
- Offer "NCPA Presents..." a lunch and learn series which will be held in several major NC cities. We envision this series to be free to our membership and other paralegals across the state. The North Carolina State Bar is offering us a grant to help fund this and other programs, and we are currently working with the North Carolina State Bar to provide them with a proposal. More to come!

- Offer the Annual Seminar and Meeting once a year in a location the membership has requested. You've told us, and we're listening. We like the Beach! Historically, The Holiday Inn Resort in Wrightsville Beach has been very good to us, and the last two years we've been there, the reviews were outstanding. You like the food and you like the location. Our convention committee is currently working to see if we can make arrangements with the Holiday Inn Resort for a long term contract that will provide us with the same experience at better rates (and hopefully a few extra perks!)
- In conjunction with our work with the North Carolina State Bar, we are hoping to obtain enough funds from the bar grant to video the CLE segments, and offer them later on our website. This is also in progress and we hope to have more information soon.

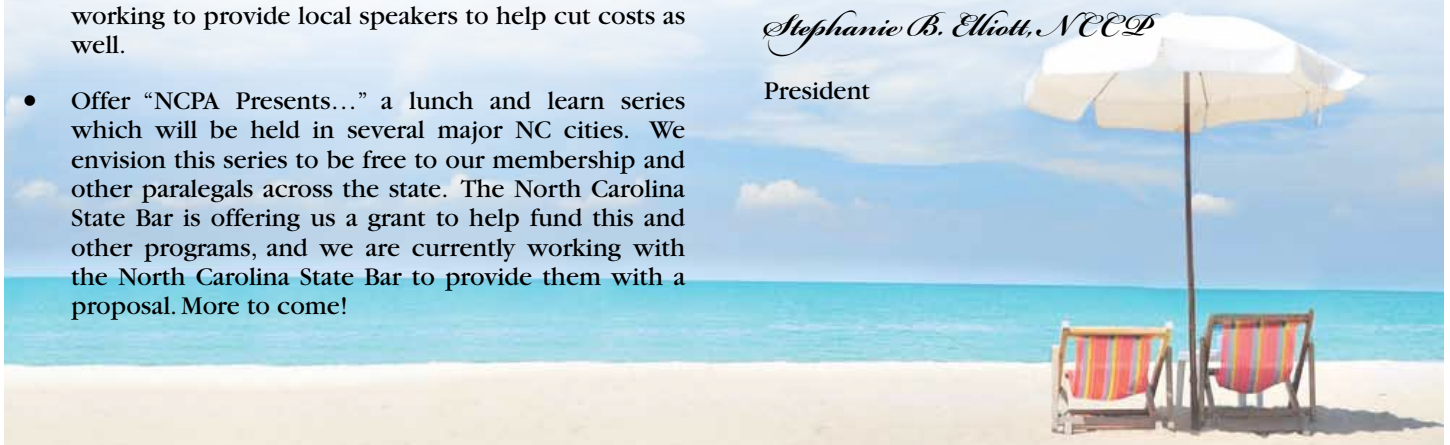
We believe these changes are crucial to helping NCPA become more fiscally responsible, as well as to offer our members what they need and what they want. We have all been affected by the changes in the new economic times- personally and professionally. We want to grow our student and new paralegal membership, but we also want to take care of those long standing members, whose needs are changing as a result of their firms' reorganization efforts (read: times are tough for everyone!)

Change also involves changes in leadership - stepping outside your comfort zone and finding ways to become involved. It's a song you will find the current leadership singing over the next year, but in order for NCPA to grow, meet our current goals and establish new goals, it takes every member finding ways to help. Take a look at the job descriptions that are on our website and give some serious thought to how you might become involved.

I welcome your feedback and thoughts about how you'd like to see NCPA grow. Feel free to email or call me. Have a safe and happy summer!

*Stephanie B. Elliott, NCCP*

President



## Chairman's Message

Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP



New officers, directors and committee chairs have recently taken on roles with NCPA. You may be thinking, I'd like to get more involved with NCPA but I just don't have time. I am here to dispell that thought with a refresher on the inner workings of NCPA.

What sets NCPA aside from other paralegal organizations? NCPA is run BY paralegals FOR paralegals. We have no attorney members other than 2 attorney advisors who help us with legal matters. Our leaders work for you and answer to you. Our leaders are Moms, Dads, Wives, Husbands, Cooks, Cleaners, Chauffeurs and Employees, just like you. We are also Volunteers. We find the time in our busy schedules to devote to NCPA and you can too.

NCPA is divided into 9 districts, each district has a director. Your director is charged with being your local contact with NCPA, holding mini meet and greets and keeping you alerted to the legal goings on in your area. These positions requires someone who has been an NCPA for a few years. If you might be interested in becoming a director, email me and I can give you more information.

NCPA has several committees that work hard. Most of you are probably familiar with our education committee, they put together the wonderful NCPA seminars. We have several other committees, some which take more volunteer

time than others. We have some positions that take little time and would be great for someone just getting into NCPA as some require no experience. If you might be interested in a committee position, please email our President.

The day to day operations of NCPA are run by our officers, our President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and NALA Liaison. These folks are busy making sure NCPA runs smoothly and for the benefit of our members. These positions also require the knowledge of someone who has been an NCPA member for a few years.

In the past few years, I have noticed a downward turn in the number of members and the number of volunteers, something that I hope to change as your Chairman. My e-mailbox is always open to you with suggestions or questions about volunteering with NCPA. If you are interested in volunteering, I promise to find something to fit your needs, big or small! More details about how NCPA works and about the positions in NCPA can be found on our website [www.ncparlegal.org](http://www.ncparlegal.org).

*Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP*

Chairman of the Board

*"Volunteers are unpaid.  
Not because they are worthless,  
but because they are priceless."*

## First Vice President's Report Education Committee

Melissa Stockley-Jones, ACP, NCCP

Summer is here and that means NCPA's 2012 Annual Seminar and Meeting, held at the Holiday Inn Resort at Wrightsville Beach, has come and gone. Time sure does fly! I would like to thank Crystal L. Robinson, NCCP; Michele A. Tuttle, CLA, NCCP; Chreatha Alston, NCCP; and Kaye H. Summers, CP, NCCP, for their contributions to make this event so successful. We had great speakers and all were well received. The hotel, food and weather were great too.

I would also like to thank all of our exhibitors for all they have done and continue to do for us. From sponsoring receptions and breaks, to printing manuscripts, to hanging out with the members and, most of all, for the goodies they provide, we are very fortunate to have their support!

As Stephanie Brooks Elliott, NCCP, NCPA's President, mentioned in her report, NCPA has decided to suspend its Mid-Year Seminar at this time. We will continue to offer the

CLA/NCCP Review Course and in two locations! This year's NCPA Review Course will be held in Charlotte and Sanford on September 14 and 15, 2012. I would like to thank Melissa Rutledge, NCCP; Rebecca Davis; Stephanie Brooks Elliott, NCCP; and Anita Wing, NCCP, in advance for all the time and hard work in organizing the Review Courses in these two locations.

I hope everyone has a safe summer. To those planning to attend the Review Course, we look forward to seeing you in either Charlotte or Sanford in the Fall. To those planning to attend Annual, we look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Inn Resort in the Spring.

*Melissa Stockley-Jones, ACP, NCCP*

2012-2013 NCPA First Vice-President



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## Second Vice President's Report Membership

Beverly K. Moore, NCCP

The current membership breakdown as of May 30, 2012 is as follows:

General members:	241
Associate members:	46
Student members:	70
Sustaining Members:	10
Affiliate members:	3
Educational Program members:	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>

We would like to acknowledge our newest (G)eneral, (A)ssociate, and (S)tudent members joining from Jan. 27, 2012 - May 30, 2012.

Heather Donaldson Austin - Sylva, NC (G)	Ruth Avellan - Charlotte, NC (G)	Milton Enrique Barba - Cary, NC (S)
Jenna E. Barker - Camp Lejeune, NC (S)	Christy R. Bennett - Carthage, NC (G)	Cathy Lynn Blonizarz - Charlotte, NC (S)
Heather W. Bolling- Jacksonville, NC (S)	Gineen Leslie Bowman - Raleigh, NC (S)	James Williams Boyles - Raleigh, NC (A)
Gretta Lynn Brown - Winston-Salem, NC (G)	Carolyn Wilson Bunker - High Point, NC (S)	Deborah Faith Burch - Durham, NC (A)
Lori L. Charnoplosky - Raleigh, NC (G)	Andrew Cohalan - Charlotte, NC (S)	Wendi M. Cooke - Morganton, NC (S)
Ann W. Dandison - Winston-Salem, NC (G)	Charlotte C. Davis - Greensboro, NC (S)	Alecia Downey - Jacksonville, NC (S)
Jean P. Durham - Denver, NC (G)	Diane S. Dyson - Spring Lake, NC (S)	Shelley Walker Frye - Clayton, NC (S)
Jane E. Goeke - High Point, NC (S)	Jennifer Gomes - Huntersville, NC (S)	Debbie R. Hall - Jacksonville, NC (S)
Jennifer Hallman - Raleigh, NC (S)	Haley Hamilton - Hickory, NC (S)	Andrea Huber - Greensboro, NC (S)
Felicia L. Jojola - Tarawa Terrace, NC (S)	Jacqueline B. Jones - Charlotte, NC (G)	James W. Jones - Jacksonville, NC (S)
Samantha S. Karpinski - Charlotte, NC (A)	Peter S. Kernan - Chapel Hill, NC (S)	Karyn D. Knowles - Hubert, NC (S)
Angie Larson - Charlotte, NC (S)	Janet E. Long - Wilmington, NC (G)	Wanda A. Long - Raleigh, NC (G)
Alesha Lopez - Garner, NC (A)	Laura Diane Love - Gibsonville, NC (S)	Christopher Madden - Kings Mt, NC (S)
Mary McDermott - Conover, NC (S)	Cindy Braswell McGhee - Raleigh, NC (G)	Jennifer L. Meacham - Salisbury, NC (S)
Morgan Louise Meyers - Jamestown, NC (A)	Vidy C. Moore - Jacksonville, NC (S)	Norma Morris - Waxhaw, NC (S)
Vanessa Lynn Noah - High Point, NC (S)	Deborah Payton - Raleigh, NC (S)	Catherine Pemberton - Raleigh, NC (S)
Teresa H. Poor - Sylva, NC (G)	Robert Porter - Denver, NC (S)	Kimberly O. Profitt - Monroe, NC (S)
Eda Quinton - Richlands, NC (S)	Tanya M. Riemer - Chapel Hill, NC (S)	Lauren Rosenblutt - Charlotte, NC (S)
Christina Rose Rushin - Whitakers, NC (S)	Kristen E. Russell - Rock Hill, SC (G)	Dollie Savage - Jacksonville, NC (S)
Paulene M. Scott - Franklinton, NC (G)	David R. Shelton - Fairview, NC (S)	Kimberly Shepard - Kernersville, NC (S)
Christine Ann Simoes - Charlotte, NC (G)	Shannon M. Spence - Jacksonville, NC (S)	Ellen N. Storch- Charlotte, NC (S)
Chapel D. Thompson - Randleman, NC (S)	Chasity Nakita Thompson - Shelby, NC (A)	Kelly E. Tooley - Summerfield, NC (S)
Dana H. Vaughn - Zebulon, NC (G)	Kathryn R. Warren - Raleigh, NC (S)	Lisa A. Weisenburg - Newport, NC (A)
Jennifer Anne Wellman - Chapel Hill, NC (A)	Jennifer L. West - Raleigh, NC (G)	Tara J. Wilder - Apex, NC (G)
Stephanie Wilczynski- Jacksonville, NC (S)	Lisa Mae Williams - Gastonia, NC (S)	Allison Dawsey Yezek - Pineville, NC (S)

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NCPA would also like to recognize our Affiliate and Educational Program members:

Alamance County Paralegal Association, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Carteret Community College Paralegal Technology Program, Cumberland County Paralegal Association, Guilford Paralegal Association, Guilford Technical Community College Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about membership in NCPA.

Beverly K. Moore, NCCP  
Second Vice President, Membership Chair



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Welcome back to another edition of NCPA FORUM! As with most Summer issues, this one is packed with things you may have missed about the Annual Seminar, things you may not know about the Mid-Year Review Courses, and just plenty of “things” in general. New ads, new ideas, and new directions. In this

## Editor's Court

Brandon L. Ruth, NCSB/CP

issue we welcome Patti Clapper as our new Chairman of the Board, and two new District Directors -

Melissa Gillen, CP (District II) and Marie-Lou M. Andresen, NCCP (District V). And, of course, with the latest trip through the NCPA Time Machine everything old is new again!

Now, it's usually the Fall issue is when we all get misty-eyed over the lost summer and lament the pending changes that occur with the turn of the season, but for the NCPA this year those changes have been happening all year long, and not just with the new people mentioned above. NCPA's newest venture - the Bus Tour - is up and rolling and bringing NCPA to people across North Carolina. Meanwhile, some of our older ventures - like the Job Bank and Mentoring Program - continue to take strides and help our members improve and grow within the profession. A lot of the time we're all so focused on getting our hours in, networking with our

professional kin, and maintaining our Certification that we don't pay enough attention to the folks who work tirelessly behind the scenes at NCPA to make these programs hum and keep them going for each successive group of paralegals. Not just at the big events like Annual, but every day.

When you get to the end of this issue, stop and read the names on the Contact List. Find the section of NCPA that has been beneficial to you over the past year - be it Job Bank, Student Relations, Mentoring, or whatever - and send the person responsible for that area an e-mail and thank them for their efforts. Shoot a “Howdy do” to your District Director and let them know you appreciate what they do to help on a local level and offer to pitch in. And take note that were it not for the people on that list, you wouldn't be reading this edition of the FORUM. For it is they who provide me with the information that I can pass along to the membership each quarter. I know everyone groans when they receive my e-mail asking for new submissions, but I truly appreciate the effort everyone puts into making the FORUM happen. And remember - the more people we have helping out the more we all benefit.

As always, thanks for reading, and don't hesitate to contact us with any feedback or ideas!

Regards,

*Brandon L. Ruth, NCSB/CP*

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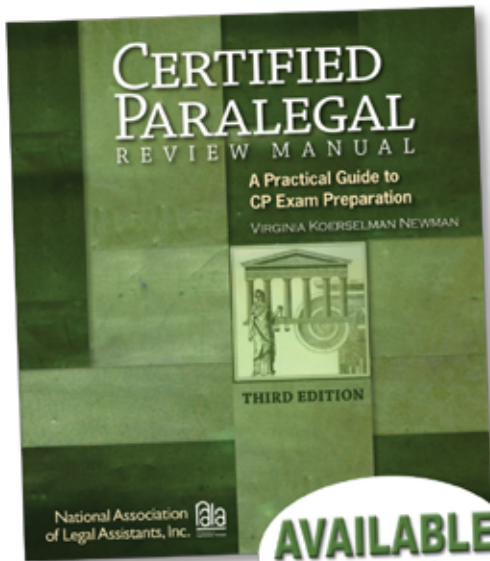
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# In Search of ... the Rest of Your CAREER!

By Chere Estrin



We all start out headed in one direction, and darn it, if we don't end up in another. There are estimates that people have three to five completely different careers in one lifetime. That's a lot of time invested when including the decision-making process, transition time, learning curve and years to gain a little experience.

Let's introduce the concept of career-changing rather than changing careers. This means taking charge of your present career and changing it to best suit your needs. Change is hard. I should know. Starting out in legal administration years ago, becoming an entrepreneur; moving as an executive to a \$5 billion corporation; exec in an \$80 million company; then back to entrepreneur, all the while staying in the legal field, I created a pattern of pushing change on myself rather than opting for a secure road. There were no "accidental" jobs.

Leveraging your background is always a good strategy. I am relieved I didn't take my mother's advice to be an elementary school teacher to have "something to fall back on, just in case." Geez, for additional insurance, she wanted me to marry a dentist – in the Valley – with a pool, and yeah, a guesthouse in the back.

Twenty years in the legal field taught me to listen closely to those desiring "something new, something different". "Something different" is about creating an emotion people can get excited about instead of routine and repetitious duties. Now that I think about it, I've never seen a legal professional get energized about a job in order to put more profit in a partner's pocket. However, when I suggest a change to an organization where a legal professional makes real difference, faces light up.

A career move may be complex. You may say you want to make a difference but in truth, only want something beyond the tedium. As stops come up and fear of the unknown sets in, commitment to radical change becomes hampered in reality. You may only be trying on the idea for size. Be honest. Are you committing to exploration or are you committing to change? Or, are you just fooling around? What you commit to will have a profound effect on the outcome.

It's okay if you don't know in what direction to head. Here is an opportunity to use your fact-finding skills to make an intelligent decision about your next career move.

**Strategy #1:** Leverage your prior work experience so that it is strategically aligned with anticipated changes. What you do now affects your future position. This may mean a new practice specialty; transfer from law firm to in-house legal department or government; an "up and out" leap to a related area such as litigation support, recruiting or marketing; a climb up the ladder to management, vendor or teaching position.

**Strategy #2:** Take baby steps. Plans for big successes often result in big failures. Chop up the path to your goal into small, palatable steps. Simplify your process and your self-esteem will zoom each accomplished step.

**Strategy #3:** Research your goals. Understand where you're headed along with the impact it will have on your career and personal life. Change can be frightening, so keep the road positive. Experiencing anxiety does not mean you made the wrong decision. Keep the transition simple and don't compound problems. For example, if you are considering switching jobs, don't quit your current position

*In Search of the Rest of Your Career - continued*

until you've found another. Maybe you can tough it out. With proper research and flexible plan, you're in the home stretch.

**Strategy #4:** Put structure into your plan. Identify what works. Get a flexible plan with a checklist. Find someone to talk to with good input and another viewpoint. Choose wisely, though. Negative Nancys can kill the best formulated plans.

**Strategy #5:** Impulsivity lacks deliberateness and can cause setbacks. Go slowly. Create a bridge to your career change. You might hold on to your current situation; take a hiatus or back-to-school break. Consider a transition job while implementing your strategy.

**Strategy #6:** As you reach your goal, your new world begins but it can't happen by itself. You have to work at it. In my situation, I started two adventures: a legal professional training company and the Organization of Legal Professionals, creating a fresh career path. (Hmmm.....In the back of my mind, was I somehow listening

to my mother?) Changes for me included: how, where and with whom I work; hours I put in; less stress; much more creativity and increased intellectual stimulation. Oh, and there is one major factor: I'm having a great time. Career changing, while risky, can be exhilarating, stimulating and overwhelming at the same time. The legal world around us has changed significantly in just a few years. To keep up or even just to stay in it, we all need change. The most profound thing you can do for your career is to discover and lead a truly authentic life by bringing the best of who you are to whatever you choose to do.

Chere Estrin is the CEO of Paralegal Knowledge Institute and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Legal Professionals (OLP). She is a co-founding member of the International Paralegal Management Association, and Lifetime Achievement Winner of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. She has held the position of senior executive in a \$5 billion corporation, written 10 legal career books and has been interviewed by Newsweek, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and others.

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# A LONG DAY COMING

By Beverly K. Moore, NCCP

The Vietnam War ended on April 30, 1975. The Vietnam War saw the death of 58,271 United States troops. Of those deaths, 1,609 were from North Carolina. When the fighting men and women of the Vietnam War returned home, they were not met with the celebrations we see today. Many returned home to being spit upon, name calling and protest. The lucky ones returned home quietly to just family members waiting at the airport. My dad was one of these soldiers as a member of the 101st Airborne Division.

My dad wears being a Vietnam Vet with pride, from his multiple hats, pins and even the emblems/stickers on his truck. But, he never had the welcome home celebration he, and so many others, deserved until March 31, 2012.

North Carolina declared March 31, 2012 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day". President Obama signed a proclamation declaring March 29 as "Vietnam Veterans Day". The USO of North Carolina, along with multiple corporate sponsors (Charlotte Motor Speedway, Lowes, Coke, Coca-Cola Consolidated, Lorillard Tobacco, RJR, Golden Corral, General Dynamics, and New Breed Logistics) took over the Charlotte Motor Speedway and made it into a welcome home celebration like no other.

There were four of us set to go, my mom, dad, me and my husband (Michael). The morning started off with rain, a sick daughter (me) and forgotten tickets (me again). Nevertheless, we finally made it (a little later than desired) but with the return home for the tickets, just in time for the rain to stop and the sun to shine brightly.

While mom and I sat in the stands and enjoyed the opening ceremonies, dad and Michael made their way to the track to look at all the attractions. The opening ceremonies were really spectacular. The US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, dazzled us with their descent from the sky. The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band (from Cherry Point, NC) played the National Anthem. However, one of the most moving moments was watching the laying of a wreath at the Wall in Washington, D.C., then the playing of taps, topped off by a fly over in the missing man formation. When that plane moved out and got lost

in the clouds - WOW!! There are just no words for that moment.

Another touching moment was when Rolling Thunder presented a ceremony to honor those still missing from all conflicts. The Coast Guard is the only branch in which no members are missing at this time. Rolling Thunder even honored the missing civilians.

After the opening ceremonies, mom and I ventured out of the stands and into the crowd, a crowd of approximately 62,500. There were several helicopters to explore. None were flyable, but give them 30 minutes and they could be up in the air. The garage areas were full of information desk and exhibits to explore. One that caught my eye was an exhibit on erecting a memorial to the dogs that have been lost in wars. There were close to 4,000 dogs serving in Vietnam.

Probably the most visited and emotional part was seeing the traveling Vietnam Wall. There were a lot of hugs, tears and emotions viewed at the Wall. Many pictures and penciling of names and some even left behind tokens of remembrance.

Throughout the day, the attendees were entertained with music and speakers. The day ended with the Charlie Daniels' Band and of course his trademark song "The Devil Went Down to Georgia". It was really neat to see everyone having such a good time to that song.

My dad had a great time (we all did, but I think he enjoyed it the most) and that is what really matters to me. It was truly an honor to get to share this experience with my family.

It was a day long overdue, but better late than never. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans and THANK YOU!!

1 The Vietnam Veterans Memorial The Wall- USA - <http://thewall-usa.com/summary.asp>

2 Rolling Thunder, Inc., <http://www.rollingthunder1.com>

3 A Tribute To The War Dogs Of The United States Military, <http://www.eagleid.com/veterans/dogs.htm>

## **2011 MEREDITH R. POLLETTE, ACP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

***THINKING ABOUT TAKING THE CLA OR ACP EXAM.....***

***WORRIED ABOUT THE EXAM FEE? THIS IS FOR YOU.....***

### **TWO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

One for CLA exam fee AND one for the ACP exam fee!!

#### **CLA EXAM FEE AWARD**

Submit an essay on one of the following topics:  
“Discuss the Advantages and Disadvantages of Certification  
And Licensure for the Legal Assistant Profession”

or

“What the CLA Designation and the  
CLA Program Mean to Me”

#### **ACP EXAM FEE AWARD**

Submit an essay on  
“I am pursuing the ACP designation because.....”

All essays must be a 1,000 to 1,500 words in length, typewritten and  
postmarked on or before August 15, 2012

Participants do not need to be NALA members, but must be NCPA members in good standing  
and meet the eligibility criteria for sitting for the CLA/CP or APC exam.

Finalists will be notified by September 15, 2012.

Scholarship fees will be paid directly to NALA and the finalists will have one year from the date of the  
award to sit for the exams. The fees will be refunded to NCPA if the finalists do not sit for the exam  
within the one-year time requirement.

Send your typewritten essays by August 15, 2012 to:  
North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.  
c/o Chairman of the Board  
P.O. Box 36264 Charlotte, NC 28236-6264

For additional information, please email:  
NALA Liaison Kaye H. Summers, ACP, NCCP; [kaye@pulleypulley.com](mailto:kaye@pulleypulley.com)

## NCPA Student Scholarship Winners

Each year, NCPA offers a Student Scholarship to any paralegal student enrolled in an accredited North Carolina paralegal educational program. The scholarship is determined by an essay competition, with the essay topic of “I have chosen to be a paralegal...”

All winners receive a complementary student registration to the Annual Meeting and Seminar, a complementary one-year student membership to NCPA, and a scholarship check to be paid to his or her school. First place winners receive \$400.00; Second place winners receive \$300.00; Third place winners receive \$200.00; and Fourth place winners receive \$100.00.

I would like to thank our Student/School Relations Chair, Charlotte Ward, CLA, NCCP, for providing me with the winning essays for this edition of the FORUM. I'm sure it was a difficult decision for the judges. Below are the names of the Scholarship Recipients, along with their winning essays:

**David Shelton**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner**  
**Western Piedmont Community College**

“I have chosen to be a paralegal...”

I can only imagine how many paths that sentence will go down...

I imagine how it would be to be a young person with little life experience, and no major regrets to finish that sentence. Had I been of different temperament and circumstances, I would enjoy now, having finished that sentence long ago. Your choices are myriad, and put you where you are today. Has this essay subject been the only one for years in this contest? If so, how often has someone been blunt enough to say “I have chosen to be a paralegal, because I cannot afford to be a lawyer?” Welcome to me. I have chosen to be a paralegal, because I cannot afford to be a lawyer. A strike against me? So be it. I have toiled physically for many, many years. I have an eighth grade education. I am a proud man. I have been married twice, and have 4 children of my own, plus three more stepchildren. I have more

life experience than I would wish on most of our youth today. I have always been a voracious reader, and I am not an uneducated man, just a self-educated man. I have chosen to be a paralegal because after years of working my way up from the trenches of the construction field, to be a Construction Superintendent for 14 years, I, like many others, got “laid off.” At 47 years of age, with an eighth grade education, and collecting unemployment for the first time in my life, I had new choices to make. If I applied for scholarships to attend law school, and miraculously got some assistance, who would pay my current bills? How would my wife and I see each other if went away? I do not question whether I would be able to do the work, just the logistics of what really matters to me. (Maybe I should though..) I won't fib and say I want to save the innocents of the world from unfair persecution, I just want to be a paralegal because it gives me a chance to use more of my mind than my back. The law has always intrigued me; a smarter man can use the law to vindicate his client against false accusations, just like Perry Mason.... I realize that is a fanciful conjecture, and not a representative fact, but I still think that how the law can be applied/construed, can be the difference in a case, whether for the “true justice” or not. I want to be a paralegal because I think I can be a good paralegal. I still have a drive to be good at whatever I do, and I am still awed by the fact that I am attending a college and doing ok in my courses, just like I belong there. I look at my college I.D., that's me on there, I'm no dummy, except for taking so damned long to get here. I want to be a paralegal because I can.

**Wendi Cook**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner**  
**Western Piedmont Community College**

I have chosen to be a paralegal for several reasons. These reasons are not just about me but also about my family.

The legal field has always appealed to me. From the time I was a child, I wanted to enter the legal field. First, I wanted to be a police officer. But our dreams as children are not always the roads that our lives take. After having my daughters, I decided that being a police officer probably is not the best choice for me because

*NCPA Student Scholarship Winners - continued*

I am all that my daughters have and being an officer is a dangerous job. Thanks to the flooding in 2004, I lost my job and then fell into teaching. I obtained an Early Childhood Education degree through Western Piedmont Community College. As much as I love teaching, I have always felt that something is missing career wise. I want to get back into law. I would like to specialize in family law. I am hoping to obtain a position with a law firm where I can use my Paralegal Technology degree along with my Early Childhood Education degree. I can use my experience with child development to help insure that children in serious situations are still being protected and their needs are still put first. I love being able to help other people. I want to have a career that fulfills that goal for me.

Another reason that I have chosen to be a paralegal is to be a positive role model for my children. I was the first in my family to graduate high school and college. I want to show my children that an education is important and you can do anything you choose. My children have seen the struggles I have been through. They have been right behind me, cheering me on. I want them to see me continue through those struggles and accomplish my goal of graduating with high honors. I want them to see me graduate with my bachelor's degree in a couple more years. I hope that my daughters see that hard work and perseverance will open doors.

One more reason why I have chosen to be a paralegal is to provide a better life for my family. I grew up in a family who lived paycheck to paycheck. I want more than that for my daughters. I want to give them the opportunities that I never had as a child. I hope to become the type of provider I should be.

A final reason I have chosen to become a paralegal is because of my parents. I know my parents are proud of what I have accomplished thus far. They have always told me so. I hope to be able to help take care of them once they get to where they cannot.

I have chosen to become a paralegal for a number of reasons. They may vary from other people who choose the paralegal field but these reasons are important to me. My family and career are my motivation for re-enrolling in college and furthering my education so I can begin a career instead of having a job.

**Mary B. McDermott**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner**  
**Western Piedmont Community College**

I have chosen to be a paralegal because I believe in the justice system. I feel that paralegals have a tremendous amount of value to contribute to the professional community as well as provide an invaluable service to the public. During my research in pursuing a new career I found that I could apply my skills, abilities, and knowledge to the legal profession that would allow me assist others and make a positive impact within the legal system.

In the past I have needed to retain an attorney to assist me in a legal matter. I worked closely with his legal assistant who was instrumental in gathering the necessary information needed to win my case. While researching new career opportunities, I saw that the local college offered a paralegal program and was reminded of that legal assistant and how she had worked diligently with my attorney. I looked further into the requirements of the program and realized that I could also be that same person and be able to provide assistance to others in need of legal help.

As I became more involved with the program studies I began to fully understand the scope of work involved, whether it is discovering facts for a civil case, researching a title to real estate, or writing a brief that may influence a judge's decision. I also began to appreciate the amount of work paralegals perform in producing and maintaining documents pertaining to our legal system and how the information they gather is used as a foundation for building cases to settle a dispute in civil litigation or proving innocence or guilt in a criminal case. While examining the different areas of the law, I was amazed at how complex our legal system truly is, and the courses I have taken have allowed me to understand the more intricate parts of our legal system and how it impacts our society.

Through my studies I have learned the significance of a paralegal's role in assisting an attorney to find the facts needed to help a client, as well as how a paralegal's work can impact those seeking justice, piece of mind, retribution, or simple satisfaction of the law. I have also found new respect for those in the legal profession and wish to play a vital role as a paralegal within the legal system.



*NCPA Student Scholarship Winners - continued*

**Jessica Stutts**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner**  
**Central Carolina Community College**

I have Chosen to be a Paralegal.....

I have chosen to be a paralegal to assist the general public as well as myself. The legal system has fascinated me for many years, not from what I've seen on television shows or movies but from real life situations I see in the news, read in articles, and live on a daily basis. I owe my drive to becoming a paralegal to my father and his situation with authorities. I currently intern with a district attorney and my goal is to obtain a position with one in the future in hopes of keeping people like my father off the streets and the community much safer.

Paralegals are an important part of our legal system. They are the "backbone" of the legal world. Preparing cases to go to trial, talking to a victim of a crime, and assisting attorneys in court, are just some of the duties of a paralegal. I have always enjoyed law enforcement and becoming a paralegal seems to be the perfect progression for me. Following trials in the news and in articles from older cases such as John Wayne Gacy to the more recent Casey Anthony trial has always made me curious to know how the cases develop. What we don't see and hear in the publicized trials is how the case was prepared, what procedures and policies have to be followed, and how many man hours the paralegals and attorneys put into the cases before they go to trial. These are just a few of the details in the legal field that drove me to be a paralegal.

My drive to becoming a paralegal is also derived from my own personal experiences. Just last year my father

was arrested and charged with two counts of drug trafficking and was sentenced to forty-two months in prison. I went to court with my father when he was sentenced. I studied the whole procedure and was captivated by it. I watched the attorneys discuss their cases, I observed the way the judge and the attorneys communicated, and I noticed the paralegals when they brought the attorneys the documents they needed. The experience was life changing for me because it opened my eyes and showed me exactly what I wanted to do with my life, become a paralegal.

The motivation I left with the day I went to court with my father was overwhelming and it gave me the push I needed to act on my dream. I currently volunteer with a district attorney and I enjoy every moment of it. I hope to obtain a position with one when I finish my degree so I can assist in keeping people like my father out of the general public. A day at the district attorney's office is very fast paced and there is never a dull moment. I realize when I am there that not only am I aiding the attorneys but the public as well. This realization brings me great satisfaction.

In conclusion, the reasons I want to be a paralegal are both professional and personal. I am driven to help the general public which in turn has helped me. The deep interest I have in the legal field and my determination to become a paralegal has flourished since I have enrolled in the paralegal technology program. Experiencing the courses first hand and learning the material has inspired me all the more to succeed in obtaining my goal of becoming a paralegal.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JULY**

*July 1, 2012*

Deadline to register for  
September 2012 NCCP Exam

*July 23-24, 2012*

CLA/CP Exam

*July 24-28, 2012*

26<sup>th</sup> NALA Annual Conference  
in Omaha, NE

**AUGUST**

*August 1, 2012*

Deadline to register  
for September 2012  
NALA CLA Exam

*August 15, 2012*

Deadline to submit essays  
for the Meredith R. Pollette  
Scholarships

**SEPTEMBER**

*September 14-15, 2012*

CLA/NCCP Review Course in  
Charlotte, NC and Raleigh, NC

*September 25, 2012*

NCCP Exam

**DECEMBER**

*December 1, 2012*

Deadline to register for  
January 2013  
NALA CLA Exam



THE  
*Director's*  
CHAIR

NCPA's Directors are elected by the general membership. A District Director must have been a general member for a year and reside or work within the district represented. As a Director, you serve on the Board of Directors for NCPA. Your responsibilities include attending scheduled quarterly Board meetings to offer input and vote on policies and procedures; coordinating meetings or a mini-seminar within your District; submitting information about your District for the AMICUS and FORUM; and generally being a liaison between the members of your District and NCPA.

If you are interested in serving as a Director, please email Patti Clapper, Chairman of the Board, at [lglduck@aol.com](mailto:lglduck@aol.com).

## ***DISTRICT II REPORT***

District II would like to welcome Melissa Gillen, CP, from Durham County as it's new Interim Director! Should anyone have any plans or ideas for upcoming events in District II, please contact Melissa at [gillens@mindspring.com](mailto:gillens@mindspring.com).

## ***DISTRICT III REPORT***

District III currently has 16 members consisting of 12 general members, 2 associated members and 2 student members.

Attorney Ellen Hancox, the Chairperson for Bar Cares, has expressed an interest in speaking at any upcoming functions. She can be reached at (910) 475-3018.

The Cumberland County Paralegal Association (CCPA) held it's 21<sup>st</sup> annual seminar on April 21, 2012 at Methodist University. CCPA recently appointed a new slate of officers: Wanda Evans, President; Angela

Graack, Vice President; Cathleen Manship, Secretary; Deborah Brodosky, Treasurer. CCPA generally holds its monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. For further information, please visit [www.ccpa.com](http://www.ccpa.com).

Sylvia L. Erickson, NCCP  
District III Director  
(910) 484-0179  
[sylvia\\_erickson@fd.org](mailto:sylvia_erickson@fd.org)

## ***DISTRICT IV REPORT***

As of May 19, 2012, District IV has 81 current members. That consists of:

- 62 general members
- 5 associate members
- 10 student members
- 2 affiliate members
- 1 attorney/advisory
- 1 educational program

Many District IV members join in with NCPA Affiliate Associations, Guilford Paralegal Association (GPA) and Alamance County Paralegal Association (ACPA) at their regular meetings.

ACPA holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at Carver's in Graham.

GPA held it's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual seminar at the Koury Convention Center on May 5, 2012. It was very well attended (with 125 registered and 9 vendor/exhibitors). GPA also held it's monthly meeting on May 8 and nominated new officers who will be voted on in June and will take office on July 1, 2012.

For more information, contact Karen F. England, NCCP at [kengland@wehwlaw.com](mailto:kengland@wehwlaw.com).

*The Director's Chair - continued*

## **DISTRICT V REPORT**

District II would like to welcome Marie-Lou M. Andresen, NCCP from Mecklenburg County as it's new Interim Director! Should anyone have any plans or ideas for upcoming events in District II, please contact Melissa at m2andr3s3n@live.com.

## **DISTRICT VII REPORT**

District VII will be holding a meet and greet in the near future. Details will be sent out by email. Stay tuned!

Stephanie Ivans, District VII Director  
stephanie.ivans@gmail.com.

## **DISTRICT VIII REPORT**

Hello District VIII members! My name is Regina H. Newsome, CLA, NCCP, and I am Interim Director for District VIII. I have worked in the legal field for over 19 years and am currently employed as a Paralegal with the North Carolina Department of Justice/Attorney General's Office, Transportation Section, in Raleigh, North Carolina. I look forward to working with you and hopefully seeing the NCPA membership in District VIII grow this year. Please feel free to contact me at rhncla@gmail.com with any comments, questions, or concerns that you may have. Thank you for your continued commitment to NCPA.

Regina H. Newsome, CLA, NCCP, Interim District VIII Director  
rhncla@gmail.com



**Has your**  
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**address changed?**

***Please be sure to let us know so we can keep you informed of what's happening in our profession.***

**Send your old and new email addresses to:**  
**info@ncparalegal.org**

**OR you may update this and other personal information on your own by logging onto the NCPA website and modifying your profile.**



## **Volunteers Wanted**

Districts I and VI need Directors! District Directoors are responsible for the promotion of NCPA and it's activities throughout the District, including the recruitment of new members and the development of min-seminars or other educational events within the District.

- District I includes the counties of Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Tyrell and Washington
- District VI includes the counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin

We also have openings for our Long Range Planning Chair and Land Records Task Force Chair!

If interested, please contact Patti Clapper, Chairman of the Board, at lglduck@aol.com.



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## 6 Simple Ways to Stay at the Top of Your Game

By: Vicki Voisin, ACP

**Has this happened to you?** You wake up one day and realize you're no longer the youngest kid on the block.

- You've worked as a paralegal for a decade or more.
- You're feeling a bit stale.
- You wonder if you've made the right career choice.
- You consider your options and see only limitations.
- You don't feel quite at the top of your game.

**It's time to change your mindset!** Staying on top of your game requires some work...and I don't mean the kind of work that keeps you behind your desk from 9:00 to 5:00 (or later) every day. I'm talking about the work you must do to keep you and your mind fresh and energized.

**Here are some simple steps you can take to do just that:**

**1. Make yourself available to those who may be newer to the career field.** If you've been in the profession for a while, you should welcome, encourage, mentor and praise those who are coming after you.

They will look to you for advice and direction. Be there for them. They are the future but guidance from those with history is crucial.

**2. Never say, 'I can't.'** There's absolutely nothing you can't do once you put your mind to it. When you're offered a challenge at work, tackle it with gusto. Ask for help and guidance if you need to. Learn everything that will help you in meeting the challenge. Dig in and work hard. Repeat the mantra of The Little Engine That Could: "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can." Then change that to "I KNOW I can!" You WILL reach the top of the mountain...success is waiting on the other side.

**3. Never stop learning.** Always embrace change and stay in the know! People who are always learning something new are not only more interesting, but also happier in general. There's always something fresh and exciting going on: new rules, case law, and procedures, as well as new books, courses, technology, and vocabulary. Make a deal with yourself to learn something new every day to keep your motivation in high gear.

**4. Credentials do matter.** Credentials say a lot about you: your depth of knowledge, credibility, determination, diligence, and more. Don't kid yourself ... if you're in

competition for a job with a person who has the same amount of education and work experience, your credentials will give you the leg up you'll need. Be sure to pursue all of the credentialing you can...then be sure to toot your horn. Let people know you have those credentials and how hard you worked for them. Also, put the designation on your business cards and firm letterhead. If you're curious about the authority to do that, see *Peel v Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Committee of Illinois*, 110 S.Ct. 2281 (1990).

**5. Join an association...local, state and/or national.** My mother always said, "Birds of a feather flock together." This is certainly the case with professional associations. An association will provide you with continuing education opportunities, as well as connections that will enhance your career. You will make lifelong friends that you can count on for assistance when you need contacts or information from their neck of the woods. This will happen more often than you might think.

**6. If joining is good, being a contributing, hard-working member is even better.** Just carrying your membership card isn't enough. You'll reap the benefits of belonging to an association when you jump in with both feet, get really involved, and take on responsibilities: write articles, speak at seminars, plan a retreat...be generous with your time, your ideas and your enthusiasm. When you do this, you'll find your voice, you'll make a difference in the profession, and you'll be more 'professional.'

**Your challenge:** Think about the steps you can take to stay on top of your game. Go new places, nurture your friendships, accept challenges, embrace goals. Never stop until you're at the top of the mountain...I know you'll like what you find on the other side.

=====

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Do you want to use this article in your newsletter, ezine or Web site? You can, so long as you include this entire blurb with it: Vicki Voisin, "The Paralegal Mentor", delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by setting goals and determining the direction they will take their careers. Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of continuing education to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She publishes *Paralegal Strategies*, a weekly e-newsletter for paralegals, and co-hosts *The Paralegal Voice*, a monthly podcast produced by Legal Talk Network. More information is available at [www.paralegalmentor.com](http://www.paralegalmentor.com) where subscribers receive Vicki's 151 Tips for Your Career Success.

# Calling All Members!

**“People who ask our advice almost never take it. Yet we should never refuse to give it, upon request, for it often helps us to see our own way more clearly.” --Brendan Francis**

Please consider contributing to the next edition of the *NCPA Forum*. Not only do we want our association’s publication to be informative and innovative for each and every member, we also want it to include helpful hints and sound advice from our main resources, our members. We are looking for all types of articles that relate to the paralegal community. Anything of interest to you will most likely be of interest to other paralegals across the state. Let your voice be heard in the *NCPA Forum*. Please submit all articles in Word format to [mel\\_clayton79@yahoo.com](mailto:mel_clayton79@yahoo.com). You may also e-mail your comments, suggestions and possible article contributors to us as well.

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# North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.'s 32nd Annual Meeting and Seminar March 22 - 24, 2012



*NCPA thanks Bill Stetzer and Kelly Miller  
for their presentation!*



*Good morning from Wrightsville Beach*



*Presidential Meeting!  
Karen McGee, CLA, NALA President,  
and Stephanie Elliott, NCCP, NCPA President*



*Melissa Stockley-Jones, ACP, NCCP;  
Stephanie Elliott, NCCP; and Kaye Summers,  
ACP, NCCP after the installation of officers*

**NCPA would like to extend its sincere thanks to the following companies, without whose support our Annual Seminar would not have been possible:**

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<b>NC Lawyers Weekly Carolina Paralegal News Mecklinburg Times</b> Contact: Jennifer Clemmence (919) 829-9333, ext. 11 Fax: (919) 829-8088 www.nclawyersweekly.com	<i>Exhibitor</i> Hospitality Bag Items
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# NCPA Wishes the Following Members a Very Happy Birthday!

*If your birthday is not listed correctly, please edit your profile on our website ([www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)) to make sure we have the correct month!*

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Amy R Armstrong  
Milton Enrique Barba  
Aissatou Barry  
Gretta Lynn Brown  
Ann Morgan Cantrell  
Jennifer L. Chilton  
Charlotte C. Davis  
Beth Fabish DeCaro  
Whitney Todd DeCillis  
Angela S. Elliott  
Stephanie B. Elliott  
Sylvia L. Erickson  
Felicia L. Jojola  
Sarah A. Maha  
Kaye L. Orander  
Sharon M. Queen  
Wayne Quick  
Tanya M Riemer  
Crystal L. Robinson  
Veronica Rockwell  
Mariann Swoyer

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Hannah I. Cox  
Debra K. Cranford  
Jennifer M. Eason  
Karen F. England  
Kimberly Roberts Eshleman  
Bethanie Holland Gauntt  
Kathy A. Glasson  
Jennifer Hallman  
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Laura Cloninger Hughes  
Patricia A. Johnson  
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Bridget Kelly Loven  
Regina H. Newsome  
Hester R. Petty  
Linda C. Price  
Tonya Raleigh  
David R. Shelton  
Chapel D. Thompson  
Shelby G. Tyson  
Jennifer L. West

## August

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Bill D. Clements  
Adell M. Collier  
Glenda T. Foley  
Darlene C. Foster  
Judith French  
Erin B. Galloway  
Angela F. Grant  
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Wanda A. Long  
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Joyce Ann Ward  
Courtney N. Whitaker  
Ann Marie Wiertel  
Stephanie Woods





NCPA would like to congratulate our members who recently obtained CP designation!!

Jennifer N. Short, CP  
Charlotte

Leslie Simmons, CP  
Raleigh

Michael L. Wilkerson, CP  
Durham

## DID YOU KNOW??

That between March 1, 2012 and April 30, 2012, there were 25 new Job Seeker registrations, 37 new resume postings, 6 new Employer registrations, and 7 job postings through our Job Bank service? Don't miss an opportunity to see and be seen by others in the field!

## NCPA'S 2012 PARALEGAL UTILIZATION AND COMPENSATION SURVEY IS COMING!!

*Judy F. Reins, CLA, NCCP - Survey Chair*

It's that time again! The NCPA 2012 Paralegal Utilization and Compensation Survey is being prepared and is almost ready for your responses! Keep an eye out for the survey in an upcoming issue of the FORUM and at our website, [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org).

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# NCPA TIME MACHINE

In this edition of the Time Machine we're going to go back and look at some happenings from previous Annual Meetings, and also see if we can get some chuckles out of our readers.

"The Future is Here: Computers in the Law Firm," presented by **Bill Skeels**, Computer Consultant, of Raleigh, NC presented an interesting discussion on how law firm automation will broaden career opportunities for paralegals. Law firms are in a transition period of either being in the process of computerizing documents or planning programs and computer applications for doing so; paralegals are the key to moving to the next step. According to Mr. Skeels, lawyers have neither the time nor the ability to focus on creating computer applications. Most computer programmers are not in a good position to develop new applications for law firms because they lack a legal background and are not aware of what you need to accomplish. Mr. Skeels considers computer automation a new breakthrough point in paralegal careers which will allow paralegals to branch out and perhaps bypass what might be called their "career ceiling." The paralegal should assume responsibility for initiating computer automation. Mr. Skeels suggests each paralegal become PC literate.

9th Annual Meeting  
May 1989

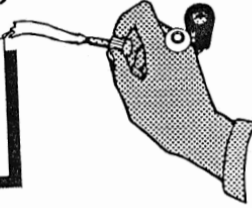
First up is May 1989, and a look at two things from our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - a presentation by Bill Skeels called "The Future is Here: Computers in the Law Firm". We have reached a point where we take automation in our profession for granted, and can forget there was a time we all needed to prepare for the big change from paper to floppy disk. We also bring you a paragraph thanking Erika H. Schulze, then-President and Editor of Legal Assistant Today, who was the guest speaker at that year's Annual.

We were honored to have special guest speaker **Erika H. Schulze**, President and Editor of Legal Assistant Today, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, at our Ninth Annual Banquet on Friday evening. Ms. Schulze gave us excellent suggestions on how we can better ourselves as individual professionals and encouraged us to always strive for the highest goals. She shared with us interesting statistics relating to the legal assistant field on a national level. We were also interested in learning that "Legal Assistant Today" is becoming "Legal Professional" in an effort to broaden the scope of articles and other information available through its magazine. As a small token of our appreciation to Ms. Schulze, we presented her with an NCPA plaque and a gray manuscript folder imprinted with our logo and her name.

# NCPA TIME MACHINE continued

## An Owed to the Spelling Check

A poem written by Jerry Zar,  
Dean of the Graduate School at  
Northwestern Illinois University.



I have a spelling checker  
 It came with my PC  
 It plane lee marks for my revue  
 Miss steaks aye can knot sea.  
 Eye ran this poem threw it,  
 Your sure reel glad two no.  
 Its vary polished in it's weigh  
 My checker tolled me sew.  
 A checker is a bless sing,  
 It freeze yew lodes of thyme.  
 It helps me right awl stiles two reed,  
 And aides me when aye rime.  
 Each frays come posed upon my screen  
 Eye trussed too bee a joule  
 The checker pour o'er every word  
 To cheque sum spelling rule.  
 Be fore a veiling checkers  
 Hour spelling mite decline,  
 And if were lacks or have a laps,  
 We wood be maid to wine.  
 Butt now bee cause my spelling  
 Is checked with such grate flare,  
 Their are know faults with in my cite,  
 Of non eye am a wear.  
 Now spelling does knot phase me,  
 It does knot bring a tier.  
 My pay purrs awl due glad den  
 With wrapped words fare as hear.  
 To rite with care is quite a feet  
 Of witch won should be proud.  
 And wee mussed dew the best wee can,  
 Sew flasw are knot aloud.  
 Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays  
 Such soft ware four pea seas.  
 And why I brake in two averse  
 By righting want too pleas.

Second is a poem from our March 1995 issue by Jerry Zar, then-Dean of the Graduate School at Northwestern Illinois University, titled "An Owed to the Spelling Check". Once again reminding us just how much we expect our technology-driven world to take care of us.

March 1995

# NCPA TIME MACHINE continued

## State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

### PARALEGAL WEEK

2001

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina has many qualified and skilled paralegal professionals working in our State; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated individuals provide a great service to the legal profession and to the citizens of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of these professionals, our legal system performs more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes the contribution to the public by these professionals and therefore supports the continued education of the citizenry regarding the role of the paralegal in our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 18-24, 2001, as "PARALEGAL WEEK" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to recognize the important contributions made by these legal professionals.



*Mike Easley*  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

Finally, from Spring 2001, Governor Easley's Official Proclamation of Paralegal Week, just in time for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.

As always, we hope you enjoy the Time Machine, and if you have any memories from issues back you would like us to revisit, contact me anytime at [brandonlruth@gmail.com](mailto:brandonlruth@gmail.com).

Spring 2001



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